The Scheme for Human Resource Development focuses on developing technologists, managers, Entrepreneurs and manpower for quality management in Food Processing. The scheme also aims at development of rural entrepreneurship and transfer of technology for processing of food products by utilizing locally grown raw material and providing "Hands-on" experience at such production cum training centres, while according priority to SC/ST/OBC and women minorities candidates.

The Scheme for Strengthening of Institutions is aimed at strengthening of existing institutes like Indian Institute of Crop Processing Technology & establishing National Institute of Food Technology and Entrepreneurship Management (NIFTEM). The objective of NIFTEM is to promote cooperation and networking amongst existing institutions both within the country & international bodies, create a complete data base on domestic resources and bring in international best practices for improving the food processing sector. Besides above mentioned institutions, two Boards have been set up under the Ministry *i.e* Indian Grape Processing Board and National Meat and Poultry Processing Board under the scheme.

In addition to the above mentioned schemes, certain fiscal incentives have been given to the food processing industry. Some of these are exemption to fruits and vegetable processing units from paying income tax, reduction of excise duty on ready to eat packaged foods and instant food mixes from 16% to 8%.There is automatic approval for 100% foreign equity in food processing sector.

Resignation of Prasar Bharati Chairman

2682. SHRI M. V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Chairman of Prasar Bharati had resigned over financial misdeeds of the Board and the indifferent attitude of his Ministry as reported in the Mail Today dated 27 May, 2009;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the manner in which Government plans to clean up the Board and ensure its smooth functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI CHOUDHURY MOHAN JATUA): (a) and (b) The Chairman, Prasar Bharati Ras submitted his resignation. He has stated that over the recent months, it has become increasingly difficult to address the proper functioning of the Board and therefore he is compelled to quit well before the expiry of his tenure on 30/4/2011.

(c) The provisions of the Prasar Bharati Act, 1990 do not empower the Government to interfere/intervene in the functioning of Prasar Bharati except under exceptional circumstances provided in the Act itself.